



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON PROCLAMATION
FOR
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, child abuse is a complex and ongoing problem in our society affecting great numbers of children; and

WHEREAS, each year more than one million children representing every racial, religious and socio-economic group are victims of child abuse and neglect, and the suffering they endure poses a threat to our families and to our society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, in Beaufort County, in 2009 there were 345 investigations into reported cases of abuse and neglect involving children. The Department of Social Services determined 81 cases indicated abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, and secure; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can be prevented only if supportive services are available to all parents through state and local agencies; and

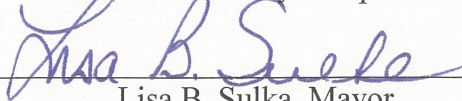
WHEREAS, the nation's economic woes have resulted not only in a rise in the number of reported child abuse cases, but also in an increased need for more volunteers to work with family members.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa B. Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, do hereby proclaim the month of April as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In the Town of Bluffton, I encourage Bluffton citizens to join me in increasing our awareness of the growing problems of child abuse and neglect and for all Beaufort County citizens to support local community programs, such as those administered by the Department of Social Services, the Child Abuse Prevention Association and the Department of Mental Health, which are designed to prevent and treat this problem.

Dated this sixth day of April 2010



Lisa B. Sulka, Mayor